~~WO 2005/016544 PCT/EP2004/008575~~

I CLAIM:

~~Claims~~

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:
Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A flanged joint (1), comprising at least one flat gasket (10) held between the facing flange surfaces (2, 4) of components (6, 8), such as lines or container parts, which store or guide a pressurized medium, characterized in that at least one lamella ring (20, 22, 24; 48; 50, 52, 54; 56; 58) is held in an annular groove (16) and biased, essentially without a gap, against a working diameter (40) radially opposing the annular groove (16), is arranged upstream of the flat gasket (10), in the direction of the pressure difference from the pressure side to the environment side.~~A flanged joint for a pressurized medium, the flanged joint comprising:

a first component and a second component having an interior;

at least one flat gasket held between facing surfaces of the first and second components;

an annular groove and a radially opposed working diameter located between the interior and the at least one flat gasket; and

at least one lamella ring held in the annular groove and biased, essentially without a gap, against the working diameter.

2. (Currently Amended) The flanged joint according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein the at least one lamella ring ~~(20, 22, 24; 48; 50, 52, 54; 56; 58)~~ is held in ~~said~~ the annular groove ~~(16)~~ with little axial play.

3. (Currently Amended) The flanged joint according to claim ~~2, characterized in that said~~1, wherein the at least one lamella ring ~~(20, 22, 24; 48; 50, 52, 54; 56; 58)~~ is arranged in ~~said~~ the annular groove ~~(16)~~ parallel to ~~the~~ a plane of ~~the~~ flange surfaces ~~(2, 4)~~of the at least one flat gasket.

4. (Currently Amended) The flanged joint according to ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~Claim 1, wherein the at least one lamella ring includes

a plurality of lamella rings ~~(20, 22, 24; 50, 52, 54; 56; 58) is axially~~ arranged axially in series.

5. (Currently Amended) The flanged joint according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that, of said~~wherein the plurality of lamella rings ~~(20, 22, 24) axially arranged in series,~~includes at least ~~the~~ one lamella ring ~~(20)~~ facing the pressure side and ~~the~~ at least one lamella ring ~~(24)~~ facing the environment side ~~are~~ and those rings being biased against the working diameter, and the plurality of lamella rings includes at least one lamella ring ~~(22) axially arranged between these lamella rings (20, 24) is~~ biased against a bottom of ~~said~~ the annular groove ~~(16)~~and axially arranged between the at least one lamella ring facing the pressure ride and the at least one ring facing the environment side.

6. (Currently Amended) The flanged joint according to ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~Claim 1, wherein the of least one lamella ring ~~(50, 52, 54; 56; 58) is~~includes a single-turn lamella ring with an axial abutment opening of a steel band extending in one plane.

7. (Currently Amended) The flanged joint according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that said~~Claim 1, wherein the at least one lamella ring is a single-turn disk-like lamella ring ~~(56; 58)~~ of a steel band formed in ~~the~~ a manner and form of a disk spring.

8. (Currently Amended) The flanged joint according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the single-turn disk-like lamella ring includes at least a pair of ~~two~~ disk-like lamella rings ~~(56; 58) is provided~~having a conical form and axially opposing each other with respect to their conical form.

9. (Currently Amended) The flanged joint according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that said~~Claim 1, wherein the at least one lamella ring is a double-turn lamella ring ~~(20, 22, 24)~~ of a ~~steel~~ metal band of constant width, ~~or of a different metal, wherein the~~and ends ~~(26, 28)~~ of ~~the double turns~~double-turns of the ring protrude towards ~~the~~ an inside or toward ~~the~~ an outside in a relaxed state of the double-turn lamella ring ~~(20, 22, 24),~~ such protrusion departing from a circular form provided by ~~the rest~~a remainder of the double-turn lamella ring, and the ends are in alignment with the circular form of the double-turn lamella ring ~~(20, 22, 24)~~ in a biased state.

10. (Currently Amended) The flanged joint according to ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~Claim 1, wherein the ~~two~~ first and second components ~~(6, 8) have~~include a radial overlapping area ~~(32) in such a way~~ such that one ~~(6)~~ of ~~said~~ the

components ~~has~~ includes an axially protruding annular collar ~~(34)~~ engaging a complementary, annular recess ~~(36)~~ of the other ~~one (8) of said components, which has its~~ component, the other component having an inner circumferential surface ~~(40)~~ forming the working diameter.

11. (Currently Amended) The flanged joint according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein the annular groove ~~(16) open~~opens toward ~~the~~ an outside and is formed in ~~said~~ the axially protruding annular collar ~~(34) of the one (6) of said components~~.

12. (New) The flanged joint according to Claim 9, wherein the metal band is a steel band.